

We Claim:

1. An apparatus for pressing items of clothing having sleeves with cuffs and a slit disposed above the cuff, comprising:

a pressing dummy having an inflatable bag projecting into a region of the cuffs of the clothing item when the clothing item is place on the dummy for drying, supporting, and shaping the sleeve during a pressing operation; and

a stiffening device supporting and shaping the clothing item in a region of the slit during the pressing operation.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening device is a tongue-shaped slit tongue.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening device is a shoehorn-shaped slit tongue.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening device is also provided in a region of the cuff to support and to shape the cuff during pressing.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening device is air-permeable.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening device has at least one air hole.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said inflatable bag is of a material; and

said stiffening device is disposed in said material of said inflatable bag.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening device is fastened on said inflatable bag.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

said inflatable bag has a tab fitted thereon;

said stiffening device has ends; and

said tab retains said stiffening device by at least one of said ends.

10. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

said stiffening device has ends; and

said stiffening device is a slit tongue and is fitted by at least one of said ends directly on said inflatable bag.

11. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said stiffening device is a slit tongue and is fitted by at least one of said ends directly on said inflatable bag.

12. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a clip for fixing the cuff integrally formed on said stiffening device.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said clip is air-permeable.

14. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said clip has at least one air hole.

15. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said inflatable bag has an end region adjacent the cuff when in the pressing operation and an air-impermeable region at said end region.

16. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening device has an inner tensioning mechanism in a region of the cuff when in the pressing operation.

17. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said stiffening device has an inner tensioning mechanism in a region of the cuff when in the pressing operation.

18. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said tensioning mechanism has two tensioning jaws supported one upon another.

19. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said tensioning mechanism has two tensioning jaws supported one upon another.

20. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the clothing item is a shirt or a blouse.

21. An apparatus for pressing items of clothing having sleeves with cuffs and a slit disposed above the cuff, comprising:

a pressing dummy having an inflatable bag projecting into a region of the cuffs of the clothing item when the clothing item is placed on the dummy for drying, supporting, and shaping the sleeve during a pressing operation; and

a stiffening means for supporting and shaping the clothing item in a region of the slit during the pressing operation.

22. An apparatus for pressing items of clothing having sleeves with cuffs and a slit disposed above the cuff, comprising:

a pressing dummy having an inflatable bag projecting into a region of the cuffs of the clothing item when the clothing item is place on the dummy for drying, supporting, and shaping the sleeve during a pressing operation, said inflatable bag has a tab; and

an air-permeable stiffening device supporting and shaping the clothing item in a region of the slit during the pressing operation, said stiffening device:

having ends;

being fastened on said inflatable bag, said tab retaining said stiffening device by at least one of said ends; and

being disposed in a region of the cuff to support and to shape the cuff during pressing.